

II. Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification at page 1, lines 1-3 as follows:

This application is a continuation ~~claims priority~~ under 35 USC § 120 and/or § 121 ~~to~~ of U.S. Application No. 09/354,424 filed July 16, 1999, issued as US Patent No. 6,472,425; which was a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/297,381 filed April 30, 1999, abandoned; which claimed priority under § 371 to PCT/US97/19870 filed October 31, 1997.

This application is related, but does not claim priority, to US Patent Nos. 5,874,437, 5,958,926, RE37,234, 6,133,272, 6,172,060, 6,172,068, 6,177,428, 6,197,782, 6,197,778, 6,211,179, 6,221,881, 6,232,321, 6,316,457, 6,331,543, and 6,462,044; and pending US Application Nos. 09/347,424 (now abandoned), 10/216,886 and 10/694,183.